

## **Suggested Talking Points**

**Ms. Elzadia Washington  
Acting Mission Director, USAID/Philippines  
Signing of the Grant Agreement between  
USAID/PRISM and Alphamed Pharma Corporation  
August 13, 2008**

Acknowledge guests:

- Mr. Arturo Tolentino, President and CEO of Alphamed Pharma Corporation
- Members of Health Source Alliance
- Dr. Yolanda E. Oliveros and Dr. Honorata L. Catibog, Directors of the Department of Health
- Professor Leticia Gutierrez and Mr. Joshua Ramos, Directors of Bureau of Food and Drugs
- Private Sector Partners and representatives of health associations

I am honored to be with you this morning to witness the signing of the grant agreement between Alphamed Pharma Corporation and the USAID/Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project (PRISM).

I congratulate Alphamed for demonstrating a strong commitment to help meet the health needs of the community. We value this

commitment by the business sector in realizing our shared goal of improving the well-being of the Filipino people. We are also fortunate to have great support and an excellent partnership with the Department of Health, including the Bureau of Food and Drugs and the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

We are very pleased that the private sector is supportive of the Philippine government's health goals and we're pleased to see the positive results of their engagement in health programs. For the past three years, the private sector share in the provision of contraceptive products has significantly increased. In 2006, the Family Planning Survey by the National Statistics Office showed a 5% increase in the private sector as a supply source of contraceptive methods.

USAID has been working with the Philippine private sector as an equal partner in development; a growing trend worldwide. With the advent of the Global Development Alliance, USAID welcomes companies and NGOs as equals – as partners -- in development

projects to stimulate economic growth, develop businesses and workforces, address health and environmental issues, and expand access to education and technology. To date, USAID Philippines has alliances and partnerships with over 130 companies, NGOs, pharmaceutical firms and other private institutions. Forty one of these alliances are on health projects. Today we are happy to witness that Alphamed, together with the other members of the Health Source Alliance, has joined us in this great partnership.

Even in the best of programs, some intended beneficiaries might be left out; in this case the low-income groups who have less purchasing power to buy private sector services and products.

While USAID supports private sector initiatives, it continues to assist the national and local governments focus their family planning resources on those in need.

As family planning services and products become increasingly available in the public and private sectors, Filipino men and

women, regardless of their economic status will have better access to a wider range of choices of methods, products and even service providers.

I am delighted to witness this grant signing today. The Philippine private sector remains a vibrant force that can bring a lasting impact to the lives of Filipino families. With many challenges still ahead of you, USAID looks forward to supporting the government's effort to increase and strengthen private sector involvement in improving access to health services and products. We trust that the results of today's partnerships will reinforce the belief that the private sector remains a critical factor in the country's development process. Together we can achieve improved access to health services and products for all Filipinos. Maraming salamat po.